

prosperity. He viewed peace negotiation as a necessity to secure Israel's future in the Middle East, putting aside whatever personal remembrances he may have carried from his days as a soldier. The pinnacle of his career was witnessed by millions of people on September 13, 1993, when he and Yasir Arafat shook hands on the White House lawn after the signing of the Declaration of Principles. On that day, he spoke words meant for Israel's Arab enemies but now tragically apply to fellow Israelis, "We are today giving peace a chance—and saying to you and saying again to you: enough. Let us pray that a day will come when we all will say farewell to the arms."

TRIBUTE TO PRIME MINISTER YITZHAK RABIN

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, like so many of my colleagues, I want to rise today and pay tribute to the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who lost his life in the name of peace this past Saturday in Tel Aviv.

Many of us have spent the last several days mourning the loss of a great man—not only for Israel but also for the world. On Monday, Kings, Presidents and Princes gathered in Jerusalem to pay tribute to this finest of leaders—the late Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. But as I listened to the statements of praise and honor, I was struck most by the words of his granddaughter, who spoke of his place in Heaven more than his place in history. "Grandfather," she said, "may the God of Israel that keeps over all of us keep you in Heaven, as you merit."

Heaven now cradles the man who spent his life fighting wars and waging peace on behalf of the great nation of Israel. And so it is left to those of us still living to carry his torch—that "pillar of fire" described by his granddaughter, that lit a path toward peace few thought possible. Yitzhak Rabin, we will miss your vision and courage. But we will not let the message of your life be lost. Today it falls to each of us, citizens and leaders of all nations, to guarantee that your legacy of peace is fully realized.

Yitzhak Rabin was trusted by Israelis first for his military knowledge, and later for his political leadership. He has been a central actor in his nation's history since its founding in 1948, leading his country through times of war and peace. His was truly a remarkable life, held together by a singular, unwavering commitment to the security of Israel.

Yitzhak Rabin once said that he worked to end the hostilities in the region so that his children and his children's children would no longer "experience the painful cost of war." Today, on behalf of Yitzhak Rabin's granddaughter and all the children of Israel, we must not ask if the Middle East peace process can survive, but rather, how. We must devote ourselves to that goal with unity and courage.

For my part, my commitment to ensuring a strong and secure Israel remains steadfast. As always, Israel has a true and lasting friend in the United States. Since its founding, the American people have stood by Israel in the search for peace and stability. Today, as Israeli citizens mourn, we stand by our friend. In the months ahead, we will stand by Israel's side as that nation heals, and as it finds the courage to take the next step toward peace.

Shalom, Yitzhak Rabin. We praise your life and the gifts you gave to Israel and the world community.

CONDOLENCES TO ISRAEL

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to add my voice to those that have been raised all over the world to say how sad we are today to have lost a great leader in the peace process in the Middle East. I, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, have met with Prime Minister Rabin, and I, like so many others who have spoken for the last few days, had great respect for him.

I want to say at a time like this, you look to your friendships for support and comfort. Clearly, America is there for the support and comfort of our friend, our ally, and our strong, strong compatriot, the State of Israel. We are there to make sure that we get through this testing period strong in body together.

Mr. President, I think as I look back on the events of the last few days, what struck me the most is how far the leadership of Prime Minister Rabin, along with his predecessors, brought us. The funeral itself would never have happened in our dreams. We would never have seen the President of Egypt, the King of Jordan, and even the good wishes of the PLO chief, coming together to say we are able to speak in one voice that this should not have happened, that we want to seek peace. I think now everyone believes that peace is achievable in the Middle East. That could not have happened 10 years ago.

Just seeing what we saw at the funeral yesterday makes us realize how far we have come. It makes us miss all the more the leadership that Prime Minister Rabin has given in this country for so long, first as a military spokesman, a military strategist, a hard-liner, if you will.

The Prime Minister saw how the strength of Israel was one and how the strength of Israel could be made to continue and endure into the future generations. I think he saw that peace was the answer that they had come to where they were by sheer grit and sheer determination. But he saw that it took more to have a lasting place in the Middle East, and he was coming around to bringing the people of Israel with him.

So I add my voice and say that my condolences go to the people of Israel, to Prime Minister Rabin's widow, and

just say that the comfort that is there in seeing the funeral for the fallen leader of Israel and the diversity of people from around the world, leaders of country, who came to pay their respects, said more than anything else, that we are at the cusp of a time when we will see peace in the Middle East.

I just want to reiterate this Senator's strong position, that America will be there, hand-in-hand with our friends, to make sure that Prime Minister Rabin's dreams will not die. They will be carried on by his successors in office and by the future generations of leaders of Israel.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Chair will inform the Senator we are scheduled, under previous consent, to be in recess at 12:30.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be yielded 5 minutes or a short period of time thereafter, and under that unanimous-consent request the 12:30 hour for recess be set aside temporarily, so that I might finish my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Nebraska.

THE ASSASSINATION OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I would like to briefly address the shocking loss to the world caused by the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin, the beloved Prime Minister of our friend, the State of Israel. I have heard several of my colleagues' remarks on the sadness of this moment, the terrible loss that we feel here in the United States and the terrible situation that is going on inside the State of Israel today; people obviously in dismay and disbelief. This is a very, very sad event.

I have listened with great interest this morning to my friend and colleague, the Senator from Minnesota. I simply say he said everything so well, I think it will suffice to say that I wish to associate myself with the remarks by Senator WELLSTONE on the floor of the Senate earlier today. He summed it up so very, very well that I cannot add to it.

Those of us who had our lives touched by Prime Minister Rabin, those of us who knew him, those of us who were with him, those of us who listened to his sound advice with regard to world leadership for peace over the years, feel a terrible loss. Our hearts go out to his family, to his constituents in the State of Israel, where he led so courageously and so bravely.

A true warrior of peace has been struck down. We all should recognize

and realize this is a time, possibly, to have this terrible loss solidify the drive for peace in the Middle East.

THE BALANCED BUDGET

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, there is a great deal of rhetoric going on today about where the Nation is going with regard to the balanced budget that this Senator supported for a long, long time. I remind the Senate it was this Senator who voted with the near majority to reach the required number of votes for setting a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. I have been known as a conservative Democrat for a long, long time, who has been against the wild-eyed spending that has engulfed our Nation for far too long. I stand ready with Senators on both sides of the aisle to march forward if we can, in a bipartisan fashion, not dictated by the budget resolution that was passed in the Senate.

The first thing I would like to do is address some of the talk that is going on today, talk I am very fearful of impinging upon the basic tenets of our Government. It seems to me the majority of Republicans in the Senate and the majority of Republicans in the House, at least their leadership, are now, unfortunately, working their way to try and thwart the rightful duties guaranteed under the Constitution to the President with regard to the veto process.

This is all centered now around the extension of the debt ceiling. I think it is time, now, we strip aside the facade that the Republicans have fashioned about their objections to raising the debt limit.

If you examine the Republican bill and reasonably add up the numbers, you discover the necessity by the Republicans to raise the debt ceiling by \$1.8 trillion, from its present \$4.9 trillion to \$6.7 trillion by the year 2002. This is the best kept secret in Washington.

It is necessary for them to raise the debt ceiling to help accommodate their \$245 billion tax break for the wealthy and cover the ever-increasing interest costs resulting therefrom. It is significant to note that in the Republican bill, they are increasing in the short term the National debt by \$600 billion in the years 1996 to 1997.

Since this is the Republican's clearly needed goal, why do they refuse to do it now—to avert the threat of a train wreck? Such action, if it were taken by the Republicans, would avert playing Russian roulette with the economy and would avert the cloud on the economy that would be caused. Clearly, if we do not raise the debt ceiling, it would result possibly in closing down Government and defaulting on Uncle Sam's obligations for the first time in its history in not issuing Social Security checks.

Mr. President, this is wrong. The process that the Republican leadership in the House and Senate are on right

now in this regard is wrong from every standpoint, as I see it.

I am sure that the Republican majorities in both the House and the Senate will pass the conference report. I am just as sure that President Clinton will veto that bill, and he would be right to do so.

The Republicans do not have the votes to override a Presidential veto. And I am glad they do not. We will eventually have to sit down and start crafting a workable budget together.

I pledge cooperation, but not capitulation. To that end, all should know where this Senator stands and where many other Senators stand who want a balanced budget. Playing games with the debt ceiling is not a yearly casino night at the local men's club. The Republicans should not be gambling with the full faith and credit of the United States.

These budget negotiations are delicate, and they will take time. At the very least, we should extend the debt ceiling into early next year.

The same is true with the next continuing resolution. We should not be taking hostages in these negotiations.

Second, we cannot, and will not, accept the Republican's current level of reductions in projected Medicare and Medicaid requirements. These are extreme, and they are excessive. They must be pared back if there is any hope of winning Democratic approval.

The same is true with tax breaks for the rich and the tax increases for working families eligible for the earned-income tax credit. Deny it as much as you want, but there is a relationship between the size of the tax breaks for the wealthy and the Medicare expenditures. The tax breaks have to be scaled back and targeted more toward middle-income Americans.

There are, of course, many others areas that will be on my list, particularly with regard to rural America which has been mauled in this budget. But I wanted to give you at least what I believe is the starting point for a balanced budget that will win bipartisan congressional support and the signature of the President of the United States.

I say to my colleagues on the other side, instead of trying to see who will blink first, why do not we try to see eye to eye on a few of these issues? That is what the American people want. That is what they deserve.

I stand ready to be of assistance to anyone on either side of the aisle in coming together where both sides are going to have to give, and give on issues that they feel very strongly about. It is in the interest of the United States of America, though, to get away from this Russian roulette that we are now headed toward, obviously with regard to the debt ceiling extension.

Mr. President, I say again, come, let us reason together.

Mr. President, I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 12:30 p.m. having arrived, the Senate will now stand in recess until the hour of 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:35 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. Helms).

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SNOWE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT

Mr. DOLE. Madam President, we have agreed to take this bill up at 2 o'clock to accommodate a lot of our colleagues who were on a plane all night. I thank the Senator from New Hampshire for not objecting to that process.

We are going to take up H.R. 1833, which is a bill to ban partial-birth abortions, and I think it is worth noting this bill passed by an overwhelming majority in the House. I know there will be efforts to amend the House bill and refer the bill to committee. I urge my colleagues to reject those efforts, because it is a straightforward bill. This isolates one procedure, one used up to the ninth month of pregnancy, and one procedure alone. It is not calling into question some of the larger abortion issues that so often divide us.

The American Medical Association's Council on Legislation voted unanimously to enforce H.R. 1833. A member of that council described it as not "a recognized medical technique."

The overwhelming majority vote in the House—including both those who consider themselves pro-choice and pro-life—underscores that this bill deserves immediate passage. After hearings and committee work in the House, nothing will be served by further delay. Those who seek to amend it are in effect trying to deprive this bill of any real meaning or significance.

The only people in America trying to defeat this bill are abortion extremists who believe that no compassion, no common sense, should ever get in the way of an anything-goes approach. I do not think reasonable people, whatever their views on abortion, agree with that position.

Opponents of this bill know that. As a result, we will instead hear soothing claims that opponents only want to amend the bill. There are those, for example, who argue that this bill needs to be amended to provide for an exception in cases where the life of the mother is at stake.